



The County Observer

Roanoke County Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter

CRIME PREVENTION REQUIRES EDUCATION

EDUCATION IS THE HEART OF CRIME PREVENTION. THE MORE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT CRIME AND HOW TO TAKE PREVENTIVE ACTION, THE SAFER THEY WILL BE. EDUCATION NEEDS VARY FROM COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY AND FROM AUDIENCE TO AUDIENCE, BUT EVERYONE-FROM PRESCHOOLERS TO SENIOR CITIZENS-CAN BENEFIT FROM LEARNING HOW TO PREVENT AND REPORT CRIME.

i-Safe America, a nonprofit foundation, is funded by the U.S. Congress to offer K-12 schools and communities a dynamic prevention-oriented Internet Safety education and awareness program at no cost. The i-Safe program is based on the belief that the best way to keep children safe on the Internet is to teach them critical thinking and decision-making skills so they can recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior and respond appropriately. This empowers them to take control of their Internet experience and enables them to act safely and responsibly. www.isafe.org

The Utah Council for Crime prevention recently launched "What's Cooking in Your Neighborhood," a public awareness campaign that urges Utah residents to turn in neighbors who are running methamphetamine labs. Utah's proliferation with meth labs earned

it the number one spot in the country for labs per capita in 1998. The Council has joined forces with the Salt Lake Police Department to orchestrate a multimedia campaign enlisting the public's help in the identification of meth labs. The campaign teaches people what to look out for-such as strong, unusual odors, residences with windows blacked out, and lots of traffic at unusual times-and how to report their suspicions. For more information, visit www.utcrimeprevention.org.

Fraud Fighters is a consumer education program run by the Attorney General's Office in the State of Washington that trains seniors on how to recognize and report such consumer scams as telemarketing fraud. Seniors who attend the free training sessions become Fraud Fighters and are given the latest information on scams and fraud, including a training kit, video, and Fraud Fighter handbook. All Fraud Fighters agree to share information with at least one friend or family member, and some go on to present information to service clubs and civic organizations. www.aarp.org/wa

Editor's note: From the National Crime Prevention Council-Monthly Action Kit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 19, 2005, St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown Roanoke City at 12:00 PM.

Saturday, April 16, 2005, from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Kite Festival. This event will be held at Green Hill Park.

Friday, May 20, 2005, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, Roanoke County Police Department will be sponsoring a Vin Etching Event. This event will be held in the parking lot of Tanglewood Mall.

BURGLARIES

The following burglaries were reported to the Roanoke County Police Department during the months of December, January, and February. The data for March was not available at the time of publication.

District one had one residential burglary in the 7800 block of Woodhaven Road, and one residential burglary in the 8100 block of Emerald Lane.

District two had one residential burglary in the 5300 block of Oakland Blvd., one residential burglary in the 100 block of Verndale Drive, one business burglary in the 4000 block of Challenger Avenue, and one business burglary in the 5500 block of Florist Road.

District three had one residential burglary in the 2600 block of Ballard Street, one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Bandy Road, one residential burglary in the 600 block of Castleridge Road, one residential

burglary in the 2000 block of Hardy Road, one residential burglary in the 2100 block of Horn Circle, one residential burglary in the 5100 block of Yellow Mountain Road, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Ivyland Road, one business burglary in the 2900 block of Washington Avenue, and one business burglary in the 2900 block of Jae Valley Drive.

District four had one residential burglary in the 5000 block of Upland Game Road, one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Indian Grave Road, one residential burglary in the 5500 block of Capulet Court, and one business burglary in the 5900 block of Starkey Road.

District five had one residential burglary in the 3300 block of Circle Brook Drive, and one business burglary in the 3900 block of Brambleton Avenue.

District six had one residential burglary in the 4900 block of Wade Road, one residential burglary in the 5000 block of Twelve O' Clock Knob Road, one residential burglary in the 8200 block of Bent Mountain Road, one residential burglary in the 5600 block of Twelve O' Clock Knob Road, one residential burglary in the 7900 block of Martins Creek Road, one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Sugar Loaf Mountain Road, and one business burglary in the 4200 block of Colonial Avenue.

District seven had one residential burglary in the 3500 block of Garman Road, one residential burglary in the 5500 block of West Main Street, one business burglary in the 1300 block of Coronado Drive, and one business burglary in the 6100 block of Meacham Road.

District eight had one residential burglary in the 3700 block of

Catawba Valley Drive, one residential burglary in the 2000 block of Timberview Road, one residential burglary in the 3000 block of Carvins Cove Road, and one business burglary in the 3200 block of Catawba Valley Drive.

SENIORS AND CRIME

Fraud, elder abuse, dishonest telemarketing and identity theft are but a few of the many crimes that face senior citizens in this country. Although seniors are less likely than other age groups to be victims of crime, fear can cause older people to alter their lifestyles and retreat into isolation. Even petty crime can cause physical, emotional, and financial trauma.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Senior citizens can benefit from steps that reduce their vulnerability to crime. They can be the backbone of a Neighborhood or Apartment Watch. This alone is an important task because most homes are more vulnerable in the daytime while the residents are away at work and school. Many people are afraid of their homes being broken into during the middle of the night. Keep in mind that burglars do not want face to face confrontation.

There is a local organization that assists seniors with their fears and concerns of crime, that organization would be the Roanoke Valley TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council. This stands for seniors and law enforcement together. They meet at the Brambleton Senior Center at 1:30 PM, on the fourth Tuesday of every month. We discuss concerns that seniors have in the Roanoke Valley and then we try to hold seminars to address these concerns. If you are interested in coming to the next meeting, simply show up, you don't need to RSVP. We would

be glad to have you. We are now in the process of getting ideas to develop the programs for spring and summer.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Over the past several months, there have been several people who have been struck by vehicles while walking. Here are some tips to keep in mind to keep safe:

- Cross streets at intersections and crosswalks; always obey pedestrian signals.
- Before crossing the street: stop and look left-right-left.
- Walk on sidewalks when possible. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.
- When walking at night, wear reflective or light colored clothing to be more visible to motorists.
- Always follow the signals of the school patrols and crossing guards.
- When approaching a school bus with flashing lights and a stop arm, remember to come to a complete stop until all children are safely out of the roadway and the bus starts moving. **Watch for children!**

REMINDER FOR PET OWNERS

The Roanoke County Police Department would like to remind each of you that any dog or cat over the age of four months is required to have a rabies shot and county tag by the end of January 2005. To obtain your Roanoke

County tag, you will need to take a valid rabies certificate and proof that your animal has been spade or neutered. If your pet has been spade or neutered, you will pay half price for the tag. The price for a spade or neutered pet is \$5.00, and the price for un-spade or neutered pets will be \$10.00. You can purchase your pet's tag from the Treasurer's Office located in the Roanoke County Administration Building located on Bernard Drive.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Bullying is a widespread problem for our nation's youth. Bullying and teasing are cited as the top school troubles for students ages 8 to 15. The National Crime Prevention Council's bullying prevention campaign is designed to counteract bullying at a young age. The television public service advertisement, "Bullying Hotline" features McGruff encouraging kids to intervene in a bullying incident. McGruff's message is simple, "Friendship beats bullies every time."

Here locally we have an organization similar to this called the "Roanoke County Prevention Council." The Roanoke County Prevention Council has been a leader in the Roanoke Valley partnering with various public and private agencies, faith based communities and youth organizations to address critical issues affecting out youth. There are four prevention councils under the direction of the Council whose purpose is to address positive youth development at the neighborhood level. Students, parents, teachers, school administrators and community leaders meet monthly at each coalition to discuss youth issues and implement on-going projects. These coalitions are Glenvar, North County, South County, and William Byrd.

In 2004, a survey was taken of the students in Roanoke County and several conclusions were made:

- 48% of local high school students and 53% of the middle school students surveyed report that they have been bullied.
- 64% of the secondary students surveyed report that they have been bystanders when someone else has been bullied.
- On the average, 7.5% of students surveyed have missed school because of bullying.

As a community, these numbers should get our attention. In order to combat the problem, we must first become educated on the topic. **Come hear an informed panel of experts discuss the very important subject of bullying.** Topics to be discussed are:

What is Bullying?
What is the Impact of Bullying?
What are the Legal Concerns?
What is Cyber Bullying?

The following is a list of meeting times and dates of these panel discussions:

March 8, 2005 7:00 PM Melrose Baptist Church.

March 9, 2005 7:00 PM Salem Civic Center

March 15, 2005 7:00 PM Cave Spring United Methodist Church.

March 16, 2005 7:00 PM Vinton War Memorial.

You are invited to attend at least one of these meetings. They are free to the public and are

designed to improve the quality of life for the young people in Roanoke County.

NEW TELEVISION PROGRAM

Many times I have told community groups that crime prevention is a mindset. In order to be safe, you have to think about ways to be safe. Crime prevention is common sense but if you never hear certain ideas, you will never be able to apply them to your personal situation. For the last couple of weeks I have been watching a television program called, "It takes a thief." This show comes on the Discovery Channel at different times during the week. It comes on next Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at 8:00 PM.

This show has actual ex-burglars who find houses that look like they would be potential targets. They talk to the owners who feel they have fairly good security for their residence. They get permission from the owners to try to defeat their security system. It shows these burglars defeating door and window locks and getting to areas of the house you would think is impossible to get to.

"It takes a thief", brings many of the crime prevention tips that I have given in various talks to life. It shows why we recommend that certain security measures be taken. It also shows that every security system could use some improvement. After viewing this show, I am sure that you will never take your home security for granted again.

VIN ETCHING EVENT

On Friday, May 20, 2005, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, the Roanoke County Police Department will sponsor a Vin Etching event at Tanglewood Mall.

All vehicles carry a federally assigned number known as a Vehicle Identification Number or VIN. Making sure that your vehicle's VIN is permanently marked on all the vehicle's windows steers thieves away.

Disposing of a stolen vehicle whose windows have been VIN Etched takes time, money, and a great deal of effort. That's because to disguise the true identity of a VIN Etched stolen car, all the windows must be replaced. Replacing vehicle glass is a costly and time-consuming process which thieves choose to avoid. And VIN Etching destroys any potential profit professional thieves may have gleaned from the lucrative practice of selling windows and windshields as parts via chop shop operations.

Come out, join us, and get your vehicle VIN Etched. It is simple, fast, safe, and won't mar the appearance of the vehicle. Numbers are etched into the glass with a chemical solution. This event is free to the public and you do not have to be a resident of Roanoke County to participate. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Crime Prevention Office at 561-8062.

SPRING TIME IS SCAM TIME

This is the time of year when various home repair scams start circulating. If they come to your door offering services such as paving or sealing your driveway, painting your barn, or fixing your roof, tell them "no", shut the door and call the Roanoke County Police Department at 561-8036. If you decide to have a job done, always look for a business license and obtain a signed contract from the individual wanting to do the work. Also, do not pay for the job completely until you are satisfied with the work.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This year, "National Night Out" will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2005. "National Night Out" is a going away party for crime. Groups from across the country will be celebrating with picnics, watermelon socials, ice cream suppers, etc. I would like to remind each Neighborhood Watch group so that you can be planning to participate with an activity. Over the past couple of years, there have only been 5 or 6 groups that have participated out of 103 groups. Keep in mind that this is an excellent opportunity to expand this program in your neighborhood by getting new people involved. The Roanoke County Police Department will have officers come by and visit your group along with our Administration and McGruff. Please be thinking and planning an activity for your group. We look forward to meeting and sharing a good time with each group.

R.A.D.

The Roanoke County Police Department sponsors, at no cost to the participants, four 3-hour sessions on self defense. The classes are for women ages 13 and older.

For more information, contact Officer N. Short, Detective B. Hook, or Officer A. Noel at RAD@roanokecountyva.gov or call 561-8092.

SCHEDULING OF PROGRAMS

The Crime Prevention Office is now scheduling talks and events for spring and summer. If you would like a talk on personal safety, fraud, identity theft, internet safety, drug awareness, home and business security, or anything else relating to crime prevention, please contact Officer

Rick Crosier at 561-8062. We will come out and talk to senior groups, school groups, church groups, civic groups, or anyone else. For younger children, we will display a police car and have McGruff come by for a visit. We have programs developed for all types of events.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	561-8036
Criminal Investigation	561-8063
Vice-Narcotics	561-8097
Crime Prevention	561-8062
rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov	
Rape Aggression Defense	
	561-8092
RAD@roanokecountyva.gov	
AEP (Street Lights, Outages):	
	1-800-956-4237

Crime Line	344-8500
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WEBSITES

Roanoke County Police
www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police

Commonwealth of Virginia
Terrorism Alert System new
website address
www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/

National Sheriff's Association
Neighborhood Watch Program
www.usaonwatch.org

RVTV 3 – Roanoke Valley
Television
www.rvty.org